



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 7395

January Session, 2019



AN ACT CONCERNING OPIOID ABUSE AND TREATMENT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2019*) Not later than forty-five
2 days before the scheduled release of an inmate from the custody of the
3 Commissioner of Correction, including release subject to parole or
4 supervised community setting, the commissioner shall provide each
5 inmate suffering from opioid use disorder, or at risk of developing or
6 relapsing into an opioid use disorder, information and counseling
7 regarding opioid use disorder treatment options, including
8 information on how to access such options after being released into the
9 community.

10 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) On or before January 1, 2020,
11 the Department of Correction, in consultation with the Departments of
12 Public Health and Mental Health and Addiction Services, shall
13 establish a medication-assisted treatment program in correctional
14 facilities for inmates with opioid use disorder. During the first year of
15 operation, at least five correctional facilities shall participate in the
16 program. During the second year of operation, at least thirty per cent
17 of all inmates in correctional facilities shall have access to the program.
18 During the third year of operation, at least sixty per cent of all inmates
19 in correctional facilities shall have access to the program. During the
20 fourth year and for each subsequent year of operation, one hundred

21 per cent of all inmates in correctional facilities shall have access to the
22 program.

23 (b) Correctional facilities that participate in the program shall (1)
24 establish procedures that enable qualified correctional staff to dispense
25 and administer all drugs approved by the federal Food and Drug
26 Administration for use in medication-assisted treatment of opioid use
27 disorder, and (2) make such treatment available under the program to
28 any inmate for whom such treatment is found to be appropriate by a
29 qualified, licensed health care provider. The program shall ensure that
30 an inmate who has been receiving medication-assisted treatment for
31 opioid use disorder immediately preceding the inmate's incarceration
32 shall continue such treatment while incarcerated unless the inmate
33 voluntarily discontinues such treatment or a qualified, licensed health
34 care provider determines that such treatment is no longer appropriate.
35 To the extent practicable, the Department of Correction shall prioritize
36 placement of inmates who have been receiving medication-assisted
37 treatment for opioid use disorder immediately preceding their
38 incarceration in a correctional facility that provides access to the
39 program.

40 (c) Not later than November 1, 2020, and annually thereafter until
41 November 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Correction shall report to the
42 Governor and, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
43 general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General
44 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and
45 the judiciary:

46 (1) The cost of the program in the prior year;

47 (2) The projected cost associated with expanding the program to
48 additional correctional facilities for the following year;

49 (3) A summary of changes to correctional facility practices related to
50 implementation of the program;

51 (4) The type and prevalence of medication-assisted treatment

52 provided under the program; and

53 (5) The number of inmates who (A) received medication-assisted
54 treatment under the program, (B) voluntarily discontinued
55 medication-assisted treatment, and (C) requested but did not receive
56 medication-assisted treatment.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*